

1 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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3 A vending machine includes a video camera for transmitting an
4 image of a buyer to a remotely located human operator, a document
5 reader for transmitting an image of identification document(s) to
6 the remotely located human in control of the vending machine, and
7 a user interface which gives the appearance that the machine is
8 autonomous even though the operator's approval is required prior
9 to vending an age-restricted item. The machine also includes a
10 payment acceptor and a dispensing apparatus.